

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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## **MARKEY BLASTS NUKE INDUSTRY ROLE IN TESTING SECURITY** *Says NRC action is like "letting Olympic athletes perform their own secret drug tests"*

Washington, DC: Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the panel which oversees nuclear power regulation, today released a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding its recent decisions to allow the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the lobbying group that represents the nuclear industry, to hire Wackenhut to test security at nuclear reactors, and to then withhold the results of those tests from the public.

"Allowing the nuclear industry to test itself and then withhold the results from the public is like letting Olympic athletes conduct their own secret drug tests," said Rep. Markey. "This will further deepen public skepticism of the Commission's performance and calls into question whether the Commission is doing what it must do to keep nuclear reactors safe from terrorist attack. This is an outrage which *must* be remedied."

Rep. Markey sent the letter in response to recent reports that indicate that the NEI has hired Wackenhut Corporation to act as a mock terrorist force in force-on-force (FOF) tests at nuclear reactors. Since Wackenhut also provides security services for 30 of the nation's nuclear power plants (including Seabrook, Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee), using Wackenhut to test security poses a blatant conflict of interest. More fundamentally, given NEI's self-described role as an advocate and promoter of nuclear power and the fact that NEI is the principal trade association representing the nuclear utilities industry, it is totally inappropriate for NEI to be involved in assessing the adequacy of security of its member companies. Finally, Rep. Markey's letter also expresses outrage that the NRC has announced that it will no longer provide any information related to assessing security at nuclear reactors to the public.

The FOF tests conducted by the NRC in the 1990s determined that about 50% of nuclear power plants failed to thwart the mock terrorist attacks. The NRC's commitment to this important program has long been problematic. In 1998, Rep. Markey wrote the NRC regarding its plans to eliminate the program entirely (see [http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss\\_nuclear\\_pr981110.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss_nuclear_pr981110.pdf)). The Commission decided not to eliminate the program once its plans became public, but has been attempting to alter the program to allow the nuclear industry to design, implement, and evaluate the FOF tests ever since. Rep. Markey entered into an extensive correspondence with the Commission regarding concerns that allowing the nuclear industry to design and conduct its own tests was ill-advised and would be detrimental to security (see [http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss\\_nuclear\\_pr990223.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss_nuclear_pr990223.pdf), [http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss\\_nuclear\\_ltr990708.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss_nuclear_ltr990708.pdf), [http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss\\_nuclear\\_ltr000204.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss_nuclear_ltr000204.pdf) and [http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss\\_nuclear\\_ltr010920nrc.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/Issues/iss_nuclear_ltr010920nrc.pdf)). After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Rep. Markey authored legislation that was acted on favorably by the House of Representatives to ensure that the NRC, not the nuclear industry, was required to evaluate the FOF tests.

For a copy of Rep. Markey's most recent letter on this subject, please see <http://www.house.gov/markey/nucreactorsec.htm>

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